

Head Quarters 1st Reg Maine Artillery
 Fort Alexander Md July 1st 1863
 A Colurn Esq
 Gov of Maine
 Gov

Not hearing from you
 since Jan'y First I will now write, to inform you
 of the situation of My Reg. And Express some
 desires, which I have, hoping they may be satisfied
 The 1st Artillery of Maine now is stationed in the three
 Forts Alexander Franklin & Ripley, And 1 Battery
 Cannon Vermont, all within one and a half miles
 of the North End of Chain Bridge. The health of
 the Reg is very good, and daily improving, we have
 had three Cases of Small Pox & one Case of Small
 Pox & two of Varioloid. There may be some more Cases
 but there are no signs of new now. The sick list
 to day was about fifty, and none very sick.
 This is a very healthy locality. And except the
 wind is a very pleasant spot. There has been ten
 days of snow winter here for this climate but would
 be considered mild in Maine. Our men however

have their tents very comfortably fixed and
keep themselves very comfortable. We have to
work considerable. One hundred & fifty men are
detached daily to work on the fortification and
one company daily to cut wood for the Regt.,
but they are cheerful, and seem to feel willing
to work in order to do something to serve their country.
I am informed that there is a strong influence
moving in Maine, in favour of Capt Hunkley as Major
of this Regt. when the time comes for the appointment of
another Major for this Regt. (say in three years.)

As I mean to act in my judgment for the best interests
of the Regt. and have a strong desire that it may be
one of the best from Maine. I feel it my duty to
ask you not to appoint Capt L Hunkley as Major
under any circumstances. He is a very nice man, but
has no military about him. And is not really fit
to command a company. And with one exception
is the poorest Captain in the line. I have made
choice of Capt Sabin as Major in my letter to Gov-
Washburn. He is a good officer, and I would like
to have him appointed Major when the time comes to
appoint. the third Major to this Regt. the two I now
have are Chas Hanks and R B Shepherd both good

In appointing R. B. Shepherd as Major
there was a vacancy as Adj't which I
have filled by appointing Stephen C. Talbot
of Co D. he was a 2^d Lieut and by the appointment
he becomes First Lieut. And I wish you to send
him a Commission as First Lieut. or Junior First
Lieut in Co D. This is all I have to write Except
I ask you, in what way you expect to fill up the
Regiment with Lieut's. there will be two to a Company
and if you have any suggestions in regard to this appointment
whether all shall be appointed from the Reg. now here
or part from the new recruits. I hope you will advise
me - I am trying to come to Mass. to see you and
talk the matter over but fear I shall not be allowed
to come. Hoping to hear from you soon
I Remain

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt

Samuel Chaplin
Col 1st Reg Heavy Artillery
Massachusetts

Col Chapman 1st W 4

of

Feb. 1. 63.

Dear Sir

off to work

at home

in the morning